

St. Clair County Soil & Water
Conservation District
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State Cost-Share - New Year Funds

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Landowners may apply anytime throughout the year for cost-share programs. We can provide technical assistance whether or not you participate in the cost-share funding. In order to evaluate our “needs”, we must submit a Needs Assessment to DNR to request future funding. Our available cost-share funding is divided into 7 resource concerns including Animal Waste Management, Nutrient and Pest Management, Sensitive Areas, Woodland Erosion, Sheet Rill and Gully Erosion, Grazing Management, and Irrigation Management with many different practices in each category. In the next few weeks, we will have to prepare our needs as-

essment and submit it to DNR for our FY-15 funding starting July of 2014. In order for our district to know what our landowners are needing assistance with, we request that you contact us before Oct. 9th. As with any process, we may not be able to fund all requests, but it is essential that we know what our county landowners feel they need help with on their farm to control erosion. The biggest problem with our not knowing what landowners are interested in doing during the next year or two, is that if we haven’t asked for specific funding for those types of practices, we will not be able to offer those practices until the



next FY funding. So, please work with us to determine your needs on your farm so there is a possibility we can help you. Contact us for more information. We want to see our landowners utilize as many cost-share dollars as possible in our efforts to conserve our soil and water resources.

About Our District

Board of Supervisors

Terry Strobe, Area I
Chairman

Susan Abbott, Area IV
Treasurer

David Garver, Area III
Vice Chairman

Richard (Dick) Stinnett, Area II
Member

Saralee Jamieson, Univ. Mo Ext.
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Existence of Man

- Did you ever consider that the existence of man depends on six inches of topsoil and the water that falls on it..... We better make every effort to save both of them!!!!

No-Till Drill Rental

The SWCD still has 2 Great Plains 10 ft. No-till drills available for rent. Both drills are capable of planting most seeds, and one of the drill’s is also capable of warm season grass seeding’s. The rental fee for both drills is \$7.00 an acre for use in St. Clair county. The

drills can be used by landowners in adjoining counties for \$8.50 an acre, only if they are not being used by our St. Clair county landowner’s and are sitting idle. We ask that the drill be used only on fields that are capable of being mowed for hay or crop ground as



rocky ground and stobs will damage the drill beyond normal wear and tear and the user will be expected to pay for the damages.

NRCS Unveils New Teachers and Students Website



Just in time for the new school year, NRCS has unveiled its new “Teachers and Students” webpage, home to age-appropriate scholastic resources. These tools are designed to help students learn about soil, water, air, plants and animals and what we can **ALL** do to protect those resources. The website includes components on topics such as knowledge of the significance of soil with its guide titled S.K. Worm, an interactive soil tour and other NRCS “characters” take students through activities that teach the basics of clean water and how it can be used wisely.

Additional components include a guide titled “For the Good of the People” which helps students learn

where their food comes from, how it is produced and what they can do to conserve resources now and in the future. This 32 page booklet is written for a fifth grade audience and can be downloaded for free.

“The Wonders of Discovery - Pollinators All Around” spotlights pollinators. Kids can take time to discover all the bees, hummingbirds, bats, butterflies and more showing why protecting pollinators is so important. Another component on the website is the “WhoBuddies Adventures”.. It is six unique owl cartoon characters who really care about the environment. You can read about their

adventures with Connor and his classmates as they work with the “WhoBuddies” to help protect the natural resources in their schools watershed.

Most school age children are eager to learn this lessons when taught in a cartoon type of approach. It would seem that anything that will help children want to learn more about the environment around them and how to respect and protect it is a definite plus in their life lessons. One good thing about all these resources are that they can be used at home as well as school.

To access these teaching tools, go to:

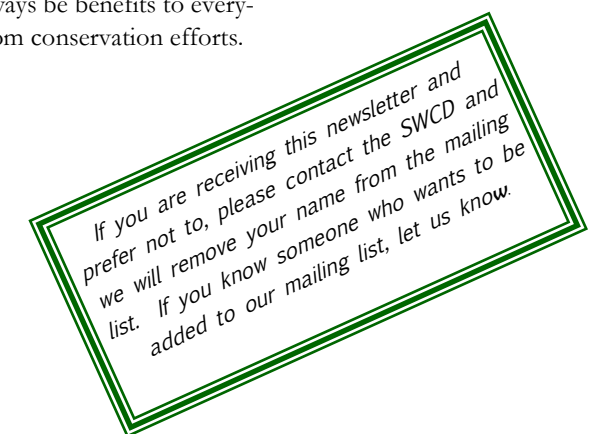
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=STELPRDB1167808>

Soil Health

You may ask ... Why does soil health matter ?? Whether you are a farmer trying to get the best crop out of your soil or a city dweller that depends on farmers to produce your food, it is very important. Between 1982—2007, 14 million acres of prime farmland in the U.S. were lost to development. As the world population and food production demands rise, keeping our soil healthy and productive is an important factor. Soil health is an important piece of the soil and water re-

source concern puzzle. Erosion control practices are another piece of the puzzle in everyone's efforts to conserve our natural resources. Healthy soils are more productive, improve profits and hold more water by binding it to the organic matter. No-till practices are another piece of the puzzle. One percent of organic matter in the top six inches of soil would hold approximately 27,000 gallons of water per acre!! Organic matter holds 18-20 times its weight in water.

Most farmers can increase their soil organic matter in 3 to 10 years. Healthy soils can reduce nutrient loading and sediment runoff and increase efficiencies. Using cover crops and rotation can also be very helpful. Franklin Roosevelt once made the statement “*The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself.*” Think about that!! We must use good soil stewardship practices to conserve what soil and water we have to work with, after all, we can't just make more. There will always be benefits to everyone from conservation efforts.



Visit Us On The Web

To visit our SWCD website

<http://www.swcd.mo.gov/stclair/index.html>

You Might Also Find These Websites Useful:

DNR Soil & Water Conservation Program: <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/>
This website has a lot of information about the Soil and Water Program in general and also cost-share practice brochures, information about the soils and parks tax, Soil and Water Commission meetings etc.

NRCS: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/mo/home/>

